

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 OIC-02 /105 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9373

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN

SUBJECT: ASPECTS OF GENERAL COMMITTEE DECISIONS AT 31ST
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. SUMMARY. WITHDRAWAL OF THE TWO KOREAN ITEMS PRIOR TO THE
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 23 SEPTEMBER SIMPLIFIED GC'S
WORK OF MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO GA ON INSCRIPTION AND
ALLOCATION OF WHAT, PENDING ANY FURTHER PROPOSALS, WILL BE
124 ITEMS ON AGENDA OF THE SESSION. GA WILL TAKE UP GC
RECOMMENDATIONS ON 25 SEPTEMBER, WHERE PROSPECT IS FOR NO
VOTING AND ONLY SCATTERED STATEMENTS OF RESERVATION.

2. DETAILS. GC INITIALLY TOOK UP VARIETY OF MATTERS CON-
TAINED IN SECRETARIAT'S MEMORANDUM A/BUR/31/1 AND AGREED
TO RECOMMEND TO PLENARY THAT THE CURRENT SESSION SHOULD
CONCLUDE 21 DECEMBER. IT THEN TURNED TO INSCRIPTION ISSUES.
IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY AUSTRALIA (AMB. HARRY),
AMERASINGHE CONFIRMED THAT THE TWO KOREAN ITEMS HAD BEEN
WITHDRAWN. THERE WAS NO RPT NO OTHER COMMENT ON THE FORMER
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KOREAN ITEMS.

3. THE GC AGREED ON A NO-OBJECTION BASIS TO INSCRIBE ALL OTHER ITEMS EXCEPT FOR THE OAU MAYOTTE ITEM. FRANCE SPOKE AGAINST INSCRIPTION AND ASKED FOR A VOTE. COMORO, TANZANIA, LIBYA AND GUINEA SPOKE IN FAVOR. THE VOTE WAS 18-1 (FRANCE)-4(US, UK, FRG, BOLIVIA).

4. CYPRUS AND TURKEY SPOKE ON INSCRIPTION OF THE CYPRUS ITEM. TURKEY DID NOT ASK FOR A VOTE ON INSCRIPTION, WHICH WAS RECOMMENDED ON A NO-OBJECTION BASIS. (DETAILS OF DEBATE ON CYPRUS INSCRIPTION AND ALLOCATION REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

5. BANGLADESH SPOKE ON GANGES DIVERSION, INDIA AND USSR OPPOSED "MULTILATERALIZATION" OF THIS BILATERAL DISPUTE BUT DID NOT ASK FOR A VOTE. AGAIN, INSCRIPTION WAS RECOMMENDED WITHOUT OBJECTION.

6. ALTHOUGH USYG BUFFUM'S OFFICE HAD ASKED US TO BE READY TO SPEAK, THE USSR DID NOT RPT NOT CRITICIZE THE SECRETARIAT FOR "FALLING" TO INCLUDE A TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL REPORT ITEM ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA. HAD THE SOVIETS DONE SO, BUFFUM WOULD HAVE EXPLAINED THAT THE TC HAD DECIDED TO MAKE A REPORT ONLY TO THE SC, AND WE WOULD HAVE SPOKEN TO ASSERT OUR VIEW THAT THE GA DOES NOT HAVE JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO TC WORK ON THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

7. THE GC THEN TURNED TO ALLOCATION QUESTIONS. ALL NEW ITEMS WERE ALLOCATED AS THEIR PROPONENTS WISHED. BANGLADESH EXPLAINED WHY IT WANTED THE GANGES DIVERSION ITEM SENT TO THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, NOTING THAT SPC HAS A LIGHT AGENDA IN COMPARISON TO COMMITTEES II AND VI. THE GDR TODAY'S STALKING HORSE FOR SOVIETS, FAVORED ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEE II (PRE-SUMABLY THE INDIAN PREFERENCE); PANAMA SAID ALLOCATION SHOULD BE AGREED THROUGH DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, AND FRANCE AGREED TO SPC BUT OBSERVED THAT THE PROBLEM HAS A TECHNICAL ASPECT WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEE II OR VI APPROPRIATE. THE GC THEN RECOMMENDED, WITHOUT OBJECTION, THAT THE ITEM GO TO SPC, CONFIDENTIAL

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8. THE MAYOTTE ITEM WAS ALLOCATED TO PLENARY WITHOUT OBJECTION.

9. FOLLOWING THE PATTERN ESTABLISHED IN 1974 AND 1975, THE CYPRUS ITEM WAS SENT TO PLENARY FOR DEBATE AND TO SPC TO HEAR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES. THE VOTE WAS 12-1(TURKEY)-9(INCLUDING US, UK, FRANCE, NORWAY,

LESOTHO, LIBYA, OMAN), WHICH CAME AFTER A PROCEDURAL VOTE UPHOLDING A RULING BY AMERASINGHE ON THE ORDER TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE GC IN VOTING ON COMPETING ALLOCATION PROPOSALS. THE PROCEDURAL VOTE ON AMERASINGHE'S RULING WAS 15-1(TURKEY)-5(INCLUDING US, UK, FRG).

10. THE GC'S RECOMMENDATION TO HEAR THE GREEK AND TURKISH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN SPC FACILITATED US "RESERVATION" ON PLENARY ALLOCATION OF THE APARTHEID ITEM. TANZANIA INTRODUCED THE MATTER BY PROPOSING THE REMOVAL OF THE APARTHEID ITEM FROM ITS TRADITIONAL SPC PLACE TO PLENARY. AMB. BENNETT OBSERVED THAT THE U.S. HAD NO OBJECTION TO PLENARY ALLOCATION, INDEED THOUGHT IT FULLY JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ITEM, BUT NOTED OUR CONCERN OVER THE CONSEQUENTIAL PROBLEM THAT WOULD ARISE IF NON-GOVERNMENTAL SPEAKERS, WHICH HAVING A DIRECT AND PERTINENT INTEREST IN THE ITEM, SHOULD WISH TO BE HEARD. RECALLING OUR LONG-HELD POSITION THAT ONLY MEMBER STATES SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO SPEAK IN PLENARY, HE NOTED THAT NON-GOVERNMENTAL SPOKESMAN COULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN A MAIN COMMITTEE (ALL 145 MEMBERS BEING REPRESENTED), WITH DIGNITY AND EXPEDITION. HE SAID CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE ON THIS MATTER AND RESERVED HIS RIGHT TO RETURN TO IT. THE UK, AND FRANCE ALSO FAVORED PLENARY BUT SAID THIS WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THEIR TRADITIONAL VIEWS AS TO THE PROPER FORUM FOR HEARING OBSERVERS. AMERASINGHE THEN SAID HE HAD HEARD NO OBJECTION TO MOVING APARTHEID TO PLENARY, WHICH WAS THUS AGREED, AND THAT HE WOULD DEAL LATER THROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH THE POINT RAISED BY US, UK, FRANCE.

11. BENNETT HAD SPOKEN EARLIER TO AMB SALIM OF TANAZIA TO ADVISE HIM OF OUR INTENTION TO MENTION THE PROBLEM
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OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL REPS IN PLENARY. FOLLOWING THE MEETING HE APPROACHED SALIM AGAIN TO SUGGEST THAT WE WORK OUT A PROCEDURE AKIN TO HANDLING OF CYPRUS ITEM, SPECIFICALLY THAT ONE OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES BE MADE AVAILABLE WHEN NON-GOVERNMENTAL OBSERVERS ASKED TO BE HEARD ON APARTHEID. SALIM WAS POLITE BUT CONFINED HIMSELF TO SAYING HE WOULD TAKE MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION. HE HAD ALSO ASKED THE FRG AND JAPAN TO SPEAK IN THE GC ON THE POINT; JAPAN DID NOT AGREE AND THE FRG DECIDED AGAINST DOING SO IN VIEW OF THE THREE OTHER WESTERN STATEMENTS. THE UK AND FRANCE TOOK POSITION THEY WOULD SPEAK ONLY IF THE US LED OFF.

12. THE NAMIBIAN AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA ITEMS WERE ALLOCATED TO COMMITTEE IV, AS IS TRADITIONAL, WITHOUT

COMMENT.

13. THE GC AGREED TO AN AUSTRALIAN REQUEST TO RECOMMEND
THAT THE ITEM LOOKING TOWARD OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE TAKEN UP AT AN EARLY
DATE SO AS TO FACILITATE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE
31ST SESSION.
BENNETT

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